

Rainbow war

Purpose:

1. To understand that during the initial stages of cross-cultural encounters, the blinders of ethnocentrism can initially prevent the nonjudgmental acceptance of other views.
2. To accentuate the idea that removing the blinders, although difficult and painful at first, is the first step toward becoming tolerant.
3. To stress that tolerance of different ways and acceptance of diversity are necessary for the peaceful coexistence of nations.

Procedure 1: Preview

Complete the following sentences

1. Change is _____
2. Contact between people from different cultures leads to _____
3. Technology _____
4. Fear _____
5. Diversity _____

Ethnocentrism is a major reason for divisions amongst members of different ethnicities, races, and religious groups in society. Ethnocentrism is the belief of superiority in one's personal ethnic group, but it can also develop from racial or religious differences.

Ethnocentric individuals believe that they are better than other individuals for reasons based solely on their heritage. Clearly, this practice is related to problems of both racism and prejudice.

While many people may recognize the problems, they may not realize that ethnocentrism occurs everywhere and everyday at both the local and political levels.

Procedure 2: The class is divided into three groups. Each group is assigned a color (red, blue, yellow). Students should watch and focus on the kingdom that represents their color

Watch the first part of the film then stop and answer the following questions.

6. Describe the people in your “Culture” by writing:

- a. What is important to you? _____
- b. What three words best describe you? _____

7. How do you feel about the other groups?

The red group is _____

The blue group is _____

The yellow group is _____

Procedure 3: Watch the war and peace segment of the video. After viewing, answer the following questions.

8. What do you think is the cause of the war? _____
9. Do you think the ending is realistic? _____
10. Is this the way the world is? _____

Discussion

Follow up Questions:

1. Give a brief description of the following expressions.
 - a. "We see what is behind our eyes."
 - b. "We see what we know."
 - c. "Seeing is believing."
2. Describe what picture you see in your mind when you hear the words;
 - a. House
 - b. Bread
 - c. Breakfast
3. What do the following people see;
 - a. French
 - b. Japanese
 - c. Mexican
4. Explain this statement: "Without a culture we cannot see, but with a culture we are forever blind"
5. What does our culture allow us to see?
6. What does our culture keep us from seeing? Why?

